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The Coming War With America

I HAVE been asked if I can give any clue to a clash between Britain and the United States in the near future, by some of the "Clarion" readers. I may say John Maclean has issued a pamphlet under the above title, published by the British Socialist Party, price threepence. I will give some of the quotations from this pamphlet, and will add more information which probably Maclean had not obtained. He quotes Douglas Haig, at Glasgow, May, 1919, warning Britain not to rely on the "League of Nations," but to make adequate preparation, using the expression: "Only thus can the terrible pressure of economic competition be prevented from driving whole continents into war." Sir Douglas believes the danger can be averted by raising eastern civilization to the level of that prevailing in Europe, because of the danger of them flooding the world's markets with cheaper goods because of their lower standard of living.

Maclean says: "As Germans had as high a civilization as Britain, and both fought, we must disagree with Sir Douglas when he anticipates a yellow menace. We calculate that America holds the field. So popular is this view in political "high class" circles, that "John Bull" utters on a poster the pitiful cry: "Is America to Boss the World?" Some may protest that a war between English speaking people is impossible. Perhaps; but let these recollect that the bloodiest war of the last century was the American Civil War of 1861-65, over an economic question." Maclean points out an American who urges universal military training as being convinced that "as long as human passions remain unchanged, as long as lust for power, or love of land or greed for commercial expansion exists, so long will there be war."

"America's foreign trade has trebled during the war. She owns 6,000,000 tons of shipping, instead of 1,000,000 in 1914 whilst her 200 shipyards, with 1,000 slips, are now constructing over 4,000,000 tons instead of 140,000 in 1914. Britain's foreign trade is expanding and she has still over 15,000,000 ship tons; but her yards have only on stock a declared weight of 2,500,000 tons. No wonder the press had recently an inspired advertisement headed: "Shipping Supremacy—American Shipyard Competition." He shows how America is obtaining a grip of European markets and how Britain is counter-balancing the menace by loaning to European countries to capture their trade.

He deals with the trustification of industry, Harland and Wolff having absorbed Ingles' shipyard in So. Govan and Henderson's shipyard of Meadowside, Patrick.

The shale oil industry of Scotland has been absorbed in a £20,000,000 trust, dominated by the Persian Oil Company, which is largely controlled by the British Government for commercial and political reasons in Persia. The Federation of British Industries, representing a capital of £4,000,000,000 exists for foreign trade and class protection at home.

He points out that the big banks of New York are co-operating with the Meat Trusts of America to lend food supplies, and how America is using the differences between France and Britain over the peace terms and Syria, to win France to her side.

He deals with the British loans to the Baltic

States and the sop thrown to Norway to rule Nova Zembla in the Arctic ocean. The visit of British journalists to Denmark he describes as being no accident when "we know America is flooding Denmark with motors and agricultural appliances. The power which can get a grip of Denmark has the key to the Baltic and the north."

He tells us: "Britain is encouraging Japan in North China against America, and in East Siberia, for the same reasons."

Maclean says: "America is exploiting Ireland's distress, and this explains the mighty reception given to De Valera, backed up by loans in due course. In case of war Ireland would be a fine naval and air base against Britain. Britain could be kept out of the Atlantic, and if cut off the continent by a ring of opposing powers her course as the mistress of the seas would be ruined. This explains Britain's madness in suppressing the Dail Eirrean (the Sinn Fein parliament) and Irish papers, and the imprisonment of Irish patriots. America is exploiting this all right. She is showing herself as the "righteous democracy," whilst at the same time she is absorbing her own little Ireland—Mexico to wit."

"The Consular system is being recast. Now Britain will have over 400 full-time Consuls over the world, instead of 200 on half-time as before. That means more trade and political spies—the prelude surely, to another war." Maclean then deals with the military and naval preparations of Britain and America, and the trans-Atlantic flying, pointing out that America's route was by Spain to France. He points out the probability of a clash over China, with Japan and Britain lined up against America and China. He gives quotations from various sources commenting on the merging of banks and industries to recover sufficiently to stand the commercial struggle, especially with America, also that Mr. Gary, chairman of the U. S. Steel Corporation, urged immediate resumption of trade with Germany, and finance less fortunate countries to revive production. Gary warned business men that they were facing the fiercest commercial struggle in the history of the world. He declared the American merchant marine equals the best.

Mr. McCurdy, Parliamentary Secretary to the Food Control, on October 31st, 1919, stated that as chairman of the committee on trusts it had been his business to investigate and protest the sinister influences on the world's meat markets of the American packers combine, and that the situation was "full of menace," as this group (the Big Five) "already controls a large part of the surplus meat of the world." Maclean appeals to labor on both sides of the Atlantic to save the world from a new and bloodier war five or six years hence, by taking full conquest of power, political and economic. To cut out this market rivalry and co-operate, which will lead to abundance and leisure for all.

For the details read this pamphlet

I will further illustrate the necessity of the wage slaves to waken up to their position if this struggle is to be avoided. The "Sunday Chronicle," 5/9/20, with a headline "Coming World Fight for Oil Wells."

"The American oil men see the danger ahead;—they are therefore, scouring the world for new oil fields; only to find that British enterprise has near-

ly everywhere been ahead of them, and that the control of almost all the most promising properties is in British hands. The past of the oil industry belonged to America; its present is predominantly under her control; but its future, if we play our cards well, should be, and will be, British

"America is not going to see her old supremacy in the oil world pass without a struggle; that she will fight hard and long to prevent the British concessions in Mexico and Central and South America from remaining in our hands, and that this question of whether Britain or the United States is destined to dominate the future of oil, is going to prove one of the most contentious that has ever arisen between the two countries."

There is also a movement to bring the West Indies into a political union with the Dominion of Canada, with representation in the Federal House, and a Provincial House similar to the provinces.

Mr. Harry J. Crowe, of Toronto, wrote to the London (England) "Times," March, 1917, on this subject. The "Times" had an editorial applauding the project. Here are some of the outstanding features as expressed by Mr. Crowe:

"The value of these tropical possessions seems also to be exciting the cupidity of some of the statesmen on the other side of the border. You have, no doubt, read a recent despatch from Washington, containing a remarkable suggestion from William G. McAdoo, former secretary of the American Treasury, and son-in-law of President Wilson, namely, that the United States should take over the Bermudas, Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica, to reduce Great Britain's war indebtedness to our southern neighbor."

"The value of these tropical possessions in the Caribbean Sea has long been recognized by our neighbors to the south of us, and we should not be surprised at this when we realize that the United States has more trade with all the West Indies, than she has with South America or even with China, with her 400,000,000 consumers."

"The United States fully realize, as we should, that the world is more and more depending upon tropical products, and that the great rivalry of the future will be for the control of the tropics."

He deplores the fact that Canada has no tropical possessions, while South Africa, Australia and New Zealand have acquired tropical territory larger than the German Empire, from the enemy, while Canada has not added any territory, although she paid the biggest price of any child of the mother country. Mr. Crowe frets that Canada has no Florida or Louisiana, no Hawaiian Islands, nor Cuba, nor Porto Rico like the United States. He says: "The lack of tropical territory is the one obstacle to our full development. Canada must have tropical provinces, producing raw material for our manufactures, and cheap fruit and other products . . . without tropical territory of our own, in my judgment, we will never be independent of the United States."

"The United States has been rapidly extending her political and commercial control over the West Indies, until she now embraces not only Cuba, Porto Rico, but has acquired the Danish West Indies, and I understand is now negotiating for the purchase of Dutch Guiana. The rich republic of Hayti and San Domingo with their 4,000,000 people will likely soon

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